

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

27th May 2021

Diocesan Council Meeting Summary for April 2021

Diocesan Council met on the 27th April 2021 by Zoom. Taken from the approved minutes, the following business was conducted:

Mission & Ministry: Muchalls & Stonehaven vacancy advertisement was reported as being 'live' and with some interest. The purchase of a Rectory for this ministry had been discussed and agreed in principle. At this meeting, Council formally approved the use of suitable reserves for the purchase of a house in Stonehaven for this purpose. The house would remain a Diocesan asset whilst a cleric was housed there to serve these northern charges.

Progress of various vacant charge recruitments was discussed. The Cathedral and Carnoustie & Monifieth will have new priests in place in late June and mid July respectively. St Salvador's was under discussion for a part-time priest in charge. Montrose and Brechin were about to go vacant with Rev John Skinner's departure.

Governance: The Diocesan Synod on Zoom was reviewed. The 'Recovery & Renewal Fund' from the Province is going to go 'live' in autumn of 2021. This fund, from central underspend in 2020, can be used by charges and dioceses to support projects/activities to build churches back up as we emerge from the pandemic. Formal notice and some meetings to launch the fund in the diocese will follow in the next few weeks.

Finance: The Bishop's Lent Appeal had closed and donations were being gathered. Quota had been requested of charges. A meeting to discuss some historical quota issues was to be called by the diocesan officers and relevant charge officers.

Property: The various diocesan properties were reviewed and actions to maintain them approved. A major project had been re-housing tenants in the Dundee flat while renovation was carried out. Dean Fay and Judy Robinson had done an exceptional job managing this.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

A subsequent Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 25th May 2021: a summary of the business of this meeting will follow in the Bulletin in the next week or two.



Updated guidance on coronavirus

SEC Covid-19 Guidance Reminder

The Advisory Group of the Scottish Episcopal Church has published new guidance on the calculation and display of the Physical Distance Based Capacity (PDBC) in church buildings, as pandemic restrictions are eased.

The Group has also produced an updated Frequently Asked Questions document based on the current state of the pandemic.

Both of these resources are available here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>

When using the index of Advisory Group guidance documents, please always ensure you select the most recent version of each document. All documents are dated and ordered chronologically, with the most recent at the top of the list.

Reminder: Physical Distance Based Capacity (PDBC) Signage is Needed for All Churches

The [Scottish Government Guidance](#) for ALL public buildings, including churches, requires that calculations are done to ensure that 2m distancing is maintained between households. Churches that have already re-opened have been doing these calculations already: that does not need to change.

There does, however, need to be a sign displayed with a figure for the capacity. We know, from experience, that this number varies depending on the household make-up of those attending worship.

The suggestion for the SEC is to work out the theoretical maximum number that could attend if, say, households of four made up the congregation. This will always be a bigger number than we can actually accommodate, but is a number that will never be exceeded. As the guidance states, this is to improve public confidence in access to public buildings and applies to ALL public buildings.

A sensibly worked-out number for PDBC should be displayed on an A4 sign by church building entrances from 17th May onwards.

Companion Links Round Up

Prayer Request for our Companion Dioceses

Following the tragic death of Bishop Ellinah and with the impending retirement of Bishop Alan from Iowa, please keep both our companion dioceses of Iowa and Swaziland in your prayers as they search for new Bishops. The candidates for Iowa have been announced: see below.

Diocese of Swaziland

The pandemic is making the election process especially complex for eSwatini. We do understand that shortlists are coming together at present and we await their publication. We will share news as soon as possible. Please also keep the Diocese of Swaziland in your prayers as they continue to cope with the impact of the pandemic on the weak and vulnerable of the country. Eswatini remains on the UK Government 'red list' for Covid-19, a reminder of the severity of the situation.

Slate of Candidates for Bishop of Iowa

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Iowa has stated that the time allotted for the Petition Process has elapsed with no petition being received, so therefore the final ballot for the election for the 10th Bishop of Iowa includes the following:



- The Reverend Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly – Diocese of Southern Virginia
- The Reverend Betsey Monnot – Diocese of Northern California
- The Reverend Elizabeth Duff Popplewell – Diocese of Iowa

The election of the Tenth Bishop will be held at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Des Moines, Iowa on Saturday, 31 July, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

For more details visit the Diocese of Iowa website at [the following link](#).

Bishop Andrew 'in dialogue' with UK Anglican Bishops

On the 27 April 2021 a webinar was hosted by 'HeartEdge' out of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London with four UK Anglican bishops and Sam Wells in dialogue about the pandemic, division within the UK and the churches' potential roles in creating a positive environment.

The webinar was videoed and is now available to view here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAltvQyA9wc>

Please do share the link with others who you think might appreciate viewing the conversation.

Worship in the Pandemic

In lockdown we can find ways to worship online. Many churches in the diocese are Zooming or gathering in similar ways—see link below. The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each led by one of the College of Bishops, will continue in the form of a Eucharist broadcast at 11am through the current lockdown and beyond, as restrictions ease.



This service has an option to hear the worship by telephone for those without internet access. There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

[Link to online services within the diocese](#)

If you are offering online worship and are not included in this list, please contact Elliott who can add you to the database.

News to share? Please send...

If you have any events, ideas with worship or anything else to report, please send copy to Elliott at office@brechin.anglican.org.